

441 (1) COLCHESTER

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., England; L.R.C.P., London;
D.P.H., Cambridge.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER;

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL
AND SANATORIUM;

TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER AND PUBLIC ANALYST.

1935.



Colchester :

WILES AND SON LTD., TRINITY STREET.

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,
1935-36.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
COUNCILLOR THE REV. F. E. MACDONALD DOCKER, M.A., B.D.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Deputy-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR G. W. B. HAZELL, J.P.

Members :

COUNCILLOR A. W. ALDERTON.

COUNCILLOR W. S. S. BACON.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. L. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

COUNCILLOR A. H. CROSS.

COUNCILLOR H. H. FISHER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR F. A. JACKLIN.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

The Health Committee with the addition of

MRS. W. W. TOWNSEND and Miss K. E. SANDERS, J.P., R.R.C.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1935.

Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon).

Dental Surgeon :

F. J. GODFREY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*A. FISHER. †*H. T. CARD. †*O. R. WARNER. †C. J. JACOB.

† Sanitary Inspector's Certificate * Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Health Nurses :

*†‡MISS E. R. SMITH.

*MISS L. PEARSON.

*†‡MISS M. PENNICK.

*†‡MISS M. E. RICKARD.

*†‡MISS A. H. WEBBER.

Masseuse :

MISS M. SCOTT, C.S.M.M.G., M.E., L.P.T.C.

Clerks :

R. D. SARGEANT. MISS M. KITTLE. MISS B. M. HYLTON. MISS J. M. COCKER.
A. W. MILLBOURN. W. B. WYNCOLL. L. G. NICHOLLS. R. J. WYNCOLL.

Laboratory Assistant :

R. D. SARGEANT.

Disinfectors :

H. EDWARDS.

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :

*†MISS D. COPELIN.

(Fever and Tuberculosis Nursing Certificates.)

Matron, Maternity Home :

*†MRS. F. DENNIS.

* Certified Midwife. † State Registered Nurse. ‡ Health Visitor's Certificate.

PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

Surgeon, Isolation Hospital :

RONALD REID, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

X-Ray Specialist :

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :

GWYNEDD HUGH-JONES, M.B., B.S., (Lond.), M.M.S.A.

Obstetric Consultants :

W. S. O'LOUGHLIN, M.D., M.C.O.G. J. L. PERCEVAL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Veterinary Surgeon :

C. T. MURPHY, M.R.C.V.S.

HEALTH OFFICES,
TRINITY STREET,

12th May, 1936.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1935.

Statistics. The Birth Rate remains very low but has improved slightly upon the figure for 1934. The Death Rates are all remarkably low figures. A corrected Death Rate of 9 per 1,000 of the population is most satisfactory. The Death Rate for Tuberculosis is very low and that for Cancer has definitely fallen.

Infectious Diseases. The year began with several severe cases of Diphtheria, but after the first quarter all forms of infectious disease became less, and through the rest of the year these diseases were unusually scarce. Even in the autumn there was no periodic rise, as is usual.

Housing. The condemnation of unfit houses steadily progressed throughout the year. This is well shown in the tables on pages 29 and 30.

The survey of the Borough for overcrowded houses was taken in hand early in the winter and though no unexpected information or even particularly valuable information is expected from this survey, the ultimate value of the Act cannot be doubted as it will result in every landlord knowing exactly how many persons he may allow to occupy a working class house.

Maternity and Child Welfare. The Maternity Home has continued to serve a most useful and valuable purpose. The Infantile Mortality rate is very low, though not the lowest ever recorded, and the deaths in young children were extremely few.

The Ante-natal Clinic was getting so overcrowded that a second session became necessary and now both Monday and Friday afternoons are given up to this Clinic.

Throughout the year I have been grateful for the great interest the Chairman, Deputy-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have shown in the work of the Health Department, of the Isolation Hospital and of the Maternity Home. The Staffs of the Offices and of both Institutions have worked most loyally and cheerfully together, and I have to thank them for the able assistance they have given me.

Also I wish to record my indebtedness to several ladies who give their voluntary assistance in the Infant Welfare Clinics. Many of them have attended regularly for a number of years and the help they give is of great value and is very much appreciated. The ladies who have helped in the Clinics are :

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. W. Townsend. | Miss H. MacGeorge. |
| Mrs. W. Webber. | Miss K. Mercer. |
| Miss Adams. | Miss T. Robinson. |
| Miss E. M. Everett. | Miss S. Tinson. |
| Miss K. Young. | |

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1935.



*An "Ordinary Report" as defined in paragraph 2 of
Circular 1492 of the Ministry of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12,020 |
| Population (1935 R.G. estimate) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51,390 |
| " (Census, 1931) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48,701 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (1931) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10,520 |
| " " " (1935) according to Rate Books | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11,500 |
| Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1931) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11,071 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | £326,654 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1,242 |

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Live Births | { Legitimate | | Male, 389 | Female, 327 | Total, 716 |
| | { Illegitimate | | " 13 | " 16 | " 29 |
| Birth Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14·5 |
| " " England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14·7 |
| Still Births | Male, 15 | Female, 15 | Total, 30 | | |
| Rate per 1,000 births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38·6 |
| Deaths | Male, 249 | Female, 246 | Total, 495 | | |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the population | ... | crude | 9·6 | | |
| " " " " corrected | ... | 9·0 | | | |
| " England and Wales | ... | ... | 11·7 | | |
| Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions | | | 36·2 | | |
| Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth— | | | | | |
| From Sepsis, 3. From Other Causes, 2. | | | | | |
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births— | | | | | |
| Legitimate, 37·7. Illegitimate, 69·0. Total, 38·9. | | | | | |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
| " Whooping Cough (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
| " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate | ... | ... | 0.51 |
| Other Tubercular Disease Death Rate | ... | ... | 0.08 |
| Cancer Death Rate | ... | ... | 1.59 |

Deaths of Colchester Residents of 70 years and over.

| 70 and under 80 | 80 and under 90 | 90 and over | Total over 70 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 119 | 80 | 15 | 214 |

The ages of persons of 90 and over were—8 of 90, 2 of 91, 2 of 92, 1 of 93, 2 of 96; thirteen of these persons were females, and two males.

Garrison and Institutional Populations.

| | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|
| Average Daily Strength of the Garrison | ... | ... | 4,082 |
| Officers, | 140 | Women, | 386 |
| Other Ranks, | 2,890 | Children, | 666 |
| Mental Hospitals Population | ... | ... | 3,673 |
| Severalls Mental Hospital (Inmates and Resident Staff) | ... | ... | 2,498 |
| Royal Eastern Counties Institution and Colchester Branches | .. | ... | 1,175 |

The Military population has decreased since the previous year by 648 and the Mental Hospitals has increased by 367. The extension of the Royal Eastern Counties Institution was opened during the year.

The Causes of Death in Infants and Children under 5 years, 1935.

| Cause of Death | Under 1 year | 1—2 years | 2—5 years | TOTALS |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Meningococcal Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Heart Disease | 4 | ... | ... | 4 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Congenital Debility and Premature Birth | 23 | ... | ... | 23 |
| Diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Encephalitis | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Totals... | 29 | 2 | 3 | 34 |

The general statistics given above will well repay careful study for they clearly indicate the remarkably healthy condition of the population of Colchester during 1935.

The corrected Death Rate, that is the rate that should be quoted when comparisons are made with other districts, was only 9·0 per 1,000 inhabitants, that of England and Wales was 11·7 per 1000. The uncorrected rate was 9·6 and the lowest uncorrected rate ever recorded was 9·4 in 1925.

The Birth Rate remains low, but is one decimal point higher than in 1934.

The figures concerned with the deaths of little children show the splendid return that has been obtained by the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was only 38·9 per 1000 live births. No deaths at all were due to Measles or Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea, and the last table above, that sets out the causes of deaths in children under 5 years of age, shows that out of 34 deaths 27 were due to pre-natal causes, as the 4 deaths from heart disease were all due to congenitally defective hearts. It is correct to say that out of 745 infants born in 1935, only 2 died from a possibly preventable cause, and of all the children, about 3,000, between 1 and 5 years old only 5 died.

It is an interesting fact that out of a total of 495 deaths at all ages 214 persons were over 70 years of age, and 95 of these were over 80 years old.

The Tuberculosis and Cancer Death Rates have both fallen. It is very gratifying to find that the Cancer rate that for the past year or two has not risen as formerly, has now definitely dropped from 1·67 to 1·59.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate is the lowest ever recorded in Colchester.

Deaths of Colchester Residents, 1935.

| Cause of Death | Males | Females | TOTALS |
|--|-------|---------|--------|
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... |
| Small-pox | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Influenza | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... | 12 | 14 | 26 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease | 30 | 52 | 82 |
| Syphilis, &c. | ... | ... | ... |
| General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Diabetes | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. | 12 | 18 | 30 |
| Heart Disease | 59 | 73 | 132 |
| Aneurysm | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 9 | 9 | 18 |
| Bronchitis | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 14 | 4 | 18 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum... .. | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) | ... | ... | ... |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver... .. | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Diseases of Liver | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Other Puerperal Causes | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Senility | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth | 18 | 5 | 23 |
| Suicide | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Other deaths from Violence | 11 | 4 | 15 |
| Other Defined Diseases | 19 | 15 | 34 |
| Causes Ill-defined or Unknown | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 249 | 246 | 495 |

This table begins very well with no deaths at all from any of the Infectious Diseases except Diphtheria and Influenza. The total number of deaths is 49 less than the previous year. The only notable increase was due to Influenza, from 4 to 10. The decreases were in almost every item to a small extent, no one cause showing any remarkable reduction.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1935.

| | Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population. | | Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population. | | | | | | | | | | Rate per 1000 Live Births. | |
|---|--|------------------|---|-------------------|------------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | Live Births. | Still Births. | All Causes. | Enteric Fever. | Small-pox. | Measles. | Scarlet Fever. | Whooping Cough. | Diphtheria. | Influenza. | Violence. | Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs. | Total Deaths under 1 year. | |
| England and Wales | 14.7 | 0.62 | 11.7 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.18 | 0.52 | 5.7 | 57 | |
| 121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London | 14.8 | 0.68 | 11.8 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.09 | 0.16 | 0.45 | 7.9 | 62 | |
| 140 Smaller Towns | 14.8 | 0.64 | 11.2 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.17 | 0.41 | 3.8 | 55 | |
| London | 13.3 | 0.52 | 11.4 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.11 | 0.51 | 11.2 | 58 | |
| Colchester Borough ... | 14.5 | 0.58 | 9.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.19 | 0.29 | 0.00 | 39 | |

All the figures for Colchester shown in this table compare remarkably well with all the others except that for deaths from Influenza. It is strange to find in such a healthy year that Influenza was proportionately more fatal in Colchester than elsewhere.

The other figures compare extremely favourably with the rest of the country.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

| Nature of Clinic. | Held at | Days and Hours. | Provided by |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Maternity and Child Welfare (3) | 1 Health Offices, Trinity Street 2 Methodist School, Wimpole Road 3 Lexden Parish Hall, London Road | Wed., 2—4.30 Mon., 2—4.30 1st and 3rd Mon., 2—4.30 | Colchester Borough Council. |
| Ante-Natal Clinic... | Health Offices | Mon. & Fri., 2—4.30 | " |
| School Clinic | Trinity Street | Minor Ailments, Tues. & Fri., 2—4.30 Eye Clinic, Thurs., 9.30—4.30 | " |
| Orthopaedic Clinic... | Trinity Street | Once every three months | " |
| Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic | Trinity Street | Wed., 9.30—12 | " |
| Dental Clinic | Trinity Street | School Children, daily, 9.30—4.30 except Wed., 2—4.30 Mat. and C.W. Cases, and Sat., 9.30—12 Gas Cases | " |
| Psychiatric Clinic | Essex County Hospital | Mon., 2.45—4.30 | Essex County Hospital. |
| Venereal Diseases Clinic | Essex County Hospital | Mon., Wed. and Fri. afternoons | Essex County Council. |
| Tuberculosis Dispensary | 12 Trinity Street | Tues. and Thur., 10.30—12.30 | " |

Health Officers and Staff.

The staff of the Health Department has grown so rapidly of recent years that the house which was enlarged only a few years ago is now getting overcrowded. Two attics originally used as lumber rooms now house four Nurses. A room that accommodated two Clerks now holds four. But the greatest overcrowding occurs at the Wednesday afternoon Infant Welfare Clinic held in the Health Offices. The attendances at the Infant Clinics have increased from just over 1,100 in 1923 to over 7,000 in 1935, and the greatest increase has been at the Health Office Clinic. It may be hoped that the maximum has been reached but if it remains at the present figure further accommodation must be considered.

Several changes took place during 1935 in the Staff of the Department. A fourth Sanitary Inspector was found necessary, and Mr. C. J. Jacobi was appointed. It was also found that the booking of patients for the Maternity Home not only required a great deal of tact and patience but took up a great deal of time. Miss Kittle has undertaken this work most successfully, but it was necessary to relieve her of some of her other work, also the main office was finding it difficult to keep up with the demands made upon it by new Housing legislation, the registration of foster mothers and the greatly increased work in the Clinics. Mr. Sargeant, the chief clerk, was relieved of all work connected with the Midwives Acts, and this was given to Miss Kittle who was relieved of all School Medical work. This was undertaken by Miss Hylton who for several years has assisted in the School Clinic, and a new short-hand typist, Miss Cocker, was appointed.

Early in the year the whole staff was deeply shocked to learn of the great loss they had sustained by the death of Mr. G. T. Hewes. Mr. Hewes joined the department in 1909 as a Disinfector, and his cheery nature and ringing laugh will be sadly missed by everyone in the office. He was always punctual, never slack, always ready to lend a hand at any job that needed doing; respectful yet with a ready reply to any chaffing remark, everyone's friend and a friend to everyone. His heart was in his work in the office, his work for the Red Cross Ambulance, his home and his garden. His death will be mourned by all members of the staff, all of whom were his friends.

Mr. H. Edwards was appointed in Mr. Hewes' place as Disinfector and a second clerk, Mr. L. G. Nicholls was appointed in the Sanitary Inspector's Office.

Nursing in the Home.

The arrangement under which the District Nursing Association sends Nurses, at the request of the Health Department, to look after sick children continues to be most valuable. Seven children suffering from—Impetigo (1), Corneal Ulcer (1), Sore Eyes (1), Whooping Cough and Pneumonia (1), General Dermatitis (1), Broncho-pneumonia (1), and Bronchitis with Laryngitis (1), were regularly visited by the Nurses and all made good recoveries.

In October Medical Practitioners in the district were informed that should they require nursing assistance for a patient with Pneumonia who could ill afford the cost of a Nurse, a District Nurse could be obtained by application to the Health Department. Only one such application was received on behalf of a man of 67 years of age. He had a severe attack of Pneumonia and the Nurse visited him upon twenty-five occasions but the attack had a fatal termination.

Midwives.

Number of Midwives practising in the Borough ... 23

Number of Medical Aid Notices received from Midwives 174

The number of Midwives remains the same, but the increase in Medical Aid Notices is surprising. Two years ago 86 of these notices were sent.

The increase is in some extent due to County Patients in the Maternity Home. During the year 26 Notices were sent upon their account.

At the end of the year six of the above midwives were employed in the Borough Maternity Home.

Under the arrangement by which Midwives are compensated for loss of a case owing to a recommendation from the Ante-Natal Clinic, three Midwives received compensation.

Laboratory Facilities.

Health Offices Laboratory.

| Specimens Examined. | Results. | | TOTAL. |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|
| | Positive or Abnormal. | Negative or Normal. | 1935. |
| Swabs for Diphtheria B. ... | 33 | 622 | 655 |
| Sputum for Tubercle B. ... | 9 | 75 | 84 |
| Fluid for C.S.F. ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Smear for Anthrax ... | — | 4 | 4 |
| Urine Examinations (various) ... | 31 | 1,134 | 1,165 |
| Smears for Gonococci ... | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Other Examinations ... | — | 8 | 8 |
| Town Water Supply Analysis ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Other Water Supply Analysis ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Total Specimens Examined ... | ... | ... | 1,941 |

There has been an increase of 645 above the number of specimens examined in 1934. There were nearly 100 more Diphtheria swabs, 25 more Sputa for the Tubercle Bacillus and over 500 more Urine examinations. The latter great increase is accounted for by the increased activity of the Ante-Natal Clinic. The Urine of every patient attending this Clinic is repeatedly examined. A most necessary precaution.

As in previous years the County Medical Officer has supplied a table showing the specimens sent by doctors in the Borough to the County Laboratory for examination.

| Specimen. | | | | | No. Examined. |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Sputa | ... | ... | ... | ... | 205 |
| Typhoid | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Ringworm | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Total ... | | | | | 249 |

The high figure for Sputa is due to the fact that all specimens of Sputa from the Tuberculosis Dispensary and Sanatorium are sent to the County Laboratory.

The Town Water supply continues to be regularly examined and to prove free from all signs of contamination.

The chlorination of the water from the river as it enters the Borough Bathing Pool continues to be most efficient and satisfactory.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Applications for Registration | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Number of Homes Registered | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Orders made Refusing or Cancelling Registration | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Applications for Exemption from Registration | ... | ... | ... | — |

A doctor in the town asked that his house should be registered for two patients and this was agreed to. Early in the current year (1936) he requested that he might also be registered for a maternity patient. This was approved on the understanding that proper arrangements were made for nursing.

All three Homes are well kept, and when inspected no alterations or improvements were required.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Visits paid to Infants by the Health Nurses during the year.

| Under 1 month | 1—3 months | 3—6 months | 6—12 months | 1—2 years | 2—5 years | Total Visits |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 748 | 1,214 | 1,307 | 1,889 | 2,455 | 2,450 | 13,063 |

REGISTER OF FOSTER MOTHERS AND BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN.

Part I Children Act, 1908, as amended by Part V of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| Children on Register January 1st, 1935 | ... | ... | 44 |
| Names removed from the Register | ... | ... | 20 |
| Additions during the year | ... | ... | 24 |
| Children on Register 31st December, 1935 | ... | ... | 48 |
| Foster Mothers on Register | ... | ... | 37 |

Steadily it has been more and more realized that to have a healthy nation it is necessary to begin at the beginning. Not so many years ago Gymnastic and Physical Exercises for young adults were considered a great advance in health culture. Then the great Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement and the Medical Inspection of School Children took a step in the right direction. Now it is agreed that Infant Welfare is all important, and soon Ante-Natal Care will receive the attention that is as necessary as any of the above-mentioned stages in the production of National Health. Whether the last step will one day be taken and eugenic considerations be part of every marriage contract it is impossible to say, but the present trend seems to point in that direction.

There are five Nurses on the staff of the Health Department, and one of these now gives the whole of her time to School Medical Inspection and School Clinic work ; another is employed half-time in Tuberculosis Work for the County Council.

Nurse Smith used to give up one afternoon to looking after the Infant Clinic held in Trinity Street every Wednesday afternoon as well as acting as School Nurse. It was found that owing to the increase of work for both infants and school children one Nurse could not look after this Clinic and also successfully carry out the duties of the School Nurse, and it became necessary to relieve Nurse Smith of the Infant Clinic work

One of the recommendations made by the Ministry of Health after the survey undertaken during the year by one of the Ministry's Medical Inspectors, was that a Senior Nurse should be appointed to supervise and co-ordinate the work of all the Nurses. Such an appointment would be most valuable not only in Infant Welfare Work but also in the School Medical Work. A Senior Nurse would have time not only to help the Nurses should occasion arise in the Clinics, but also to give informal, and later on perhaps formal, talks to the mothers at the Clinics. She should also make special enquiries into such conditions as Malnutrition, Rickets, Stammering among school children, and Deafness, etc., under the direction of the Medical Officer. An appointment of this nature was receiving the careful consideration of the Committees concerned at the end of the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

For a second year no cases of this disease have been reported.

The Infant Clinics.

| | 1934 | 1935 |
|---|------|------|
| *Number of new babies (348) and toddlers (72) brought to the Clinics : Trinity Street 180 babies, 53 toddlers ; Wimpole Road 126 babies, 8 toddlers ; Lexden 42 babies, 11 toddlers | 393 | 420 |

Number of Attendances made : Trinity Street 3,549, Wimpole Road 2,670, Lexden 825 5,805 7,044

* Babies are under 1 year old ; Toddlers are 1—5 years old.

This little table shows very well the increasing popularity of these Clinics. The numbers of new babies and toddlers brought to the Clinics for the past three years have been 359, 393, 420.

Although no doubt the great attraction is cheap baby foods, etc., yet no food is supplied unless the baby is brought up regularly for weighing, and for the doctor to see, and so the baby gains the benefit both ways, he gets the food he needs and his care and up-bringing get well supervised.

The number of attendances of babies and toddlers at the Welfare Centres has increased in a way that can readily be realized by a glance at the figures below :—

Attendances at Infant Welfare Centres.

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|--------|------|-----|-------|
| 1919 | ... | 1,106. | 1933 | ... | 5,893 |
| 1923 | | 1,234. | 1935 | ... | 7,044 |
| 1928 | ... | 3,068. | | | |

In 1925 the Welfare Centre at Wimpole Road was opened, in 1928 the Lexden Centre was opened.

The Centre in Trinity Street is a good deal more popular than the other two, being very conveniently situated. The above figures eloquently show why this Centre is becoming more crowded than is desirable.

Food distributed at the Infant Clinics

| | | Sold at Cost Price. | Given Free. |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-------------|
| Dried Milk, lbs. | ... | 4,912 | 592 |
| Cod Liver Oil Emulsion, Soz. | ... | 887 | 27 |
| Parish's Food, Soz. | ... | 160 | — |
| Cod Liver Oil and Malt, lbs. | ... | 224 | 23 |
| Virol, Soz. | ... | 1,300 | — |
| Ovaltine, tins | ... | 1,465 | — |
| Lactagol, packets | ... | 219 | — |
| Feeding Bottles | ... | 171 | 1 |
| „ „ Teats 504, Valves 341 | | 845 | — |
| Tooth Brushes | ... | 344 | — |

Lactagol is a preparation for Nursing Mothers.

The above quantities are in addition to the large amount of Free Fresh Milk distributed.

There has been a great increase in the amount of food sold and given free at these Clinics.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

| | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Number of families supplied with Free | | | |
| Fresh Milk... | 99 | 142 | 139 |
| Number of pints supplied | 11,402 | 14,818½ | 16,128 |

The large increase in the amount of Milk supplied was due to the desire of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee that expectant mothers should receive generous consideration. In 1934 such women received 696 pints, and in 1935 this figure was increased to 2,361 pints. It is not possible to assess the benefit to future generations of this supply, but there is no need to try to do so. The benefit to an ill-nourished expectant mother of good easily-digested food is a self-evident fact that needs no proof.

| Ante-natal Clinic. | | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|---|--------|------|------|-------|
| Number of times the Clinic was held | ... | 48 | 50 | 85 |
| New Patients (Colchester 146, Other Districts 37) | ... .. | 86 | 154 | 183 |
| Number of Attendances (Colchester 950, Other Districts 171) | ... .. | 383 | 617 | 1,121 |
| Average number of cases per Clinic | ... | 8 | 12 | 13 |
| Cases with Abnormal Conditions | ... | 27 | 23 | 19 |
| Cases recommended to seek further Medical Advice | ... .. | 16 | 11 | 26 |
| Cases recommended to Institutions | ... | 10 | 12 | 12 |

The percentage of women who attend an Ante-natal Clinic is higher than the above figures show, as an Ante-natal Clinic for the wives of soldiers is held at the Military Hospital, and as 180 births occurred in the Military Families Hospital this figure must be added to 146 making a total of 326 women who attended an Ante-natal Clinic during the year, that is to say nearly 40 per cent. of expectant mothers in Colchester attended an Ante-natal Clinic.

Steadily the value of the Ante-natal Clinic is being appreciated and it will be noted that once a week was found insufficient to cope with the number of women attending. At first the Clinic was held every Monday afternoon. It is now held on Monday and Friday afternoons, and the average number of patients at each Clinic has risen to thirteen. The Friday afternoon Clinic was first held on April 5th, 1935.

Several of the Doctors recommend their patients to attend this Clinic and a number of the Midwives ask the assistance and advice of the Lady Doctor in charge of the Clinic in difficult or abnormal cases.

Occasionally it happens that a Midwives' case can only be properly looked after in an Institution, and the patient is warned that such care is necessary. When this occurs the Midwife loses her patient, and in such cases the local authority has agreed to compensate the Midwife by a payment of ten shillings.

By this method midwives are encouraged to bring their cases to the Clinic, and difficult or abnormal cases are greatly benefitted.

Maternal Deaths, as in previous years, are all investigated by the Medical Officer of Health, and a confidential report upon each is sent to the Ministry of Health.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

| | |
|---|---|
| Borough Cases Notified, 5; not notified, 2 ... | 7 |
| Removed to Isolation Hospital— | |
| Borough Cases, 4; Outside District Cases, 5 ... | 9 |
| Deaths in Isolation Hospital: Borough, nil.; Outside Districts, 2 ... | 2 |
| Deaths at home or in other Institutions (Borough) ... | 2 |

Four patients in the Borough were notified as suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia and one from Puerperal Fever. Stated in general terms it should be understood that Puerperal Pyrexia is any slight feverishness lasting for 24 hours during the first 21 days after child-birth. The term Puerperal Fever is now usually applied to a much more serious condition, one that is likely to develop into severe blood poisoning. Puerperal Pyrexia in some cases is really the early stage of the more serious disease, hence the very great importance of, not only early diagnosis, but also of early and energetic treatment as this condition is one that frequently will respond to early treatment.

Four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified in Colchester, two from the Maternity Home and two from houses in the town. All were removed to the Isolation Hospital and all four made good recoveries. A woman with a serious disease of the heart was sent at the request of her relatives to a London Hospital from the Maternity Home. From London she was notified as suffering from Puerperal Fever, and she died in the Hospital in London. Although this must be classed as a maternal death possibly due to Puerperal Fever, it is more likely that the Fever was due to the serious heart disease (Malignant Endocarditis) from which she was suffering.

Five cases of Puerperal Fever were admitted to the Isolation Hospital from neighbouring districts. Three were seriously ill. One died the day after admission, another survived only ten days and the third recovered. The two less severe cases both made good recoveries. For two of the patients consultations were held, one with the Consulting Surgeon and the other with the Consulting Gynæcologist.

The table of comparison given last year is repeated below.

Maternal Mortality Death Rate.*England and Wales.*

| | Puerperal Sepsis | Others | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|
| Per 1,000 Live Births ... | 1·68 | 2·42 | 4·10 |
| Per 1,000 Total Births ... | 1·61 | 2·32 | 3·93 |
| <i>Borough of Colchester.</i> | | | |
| Per 1,000 Live Births ... | 4·02 | 2·69 | 6·71 |
| Per 1,000 Total Births ... | 3·87 | 2·58 | 6·45 |

Two cases occurred in the Borough that were not notified, one was a Septic Abortion which resulted in an inquest and the other a case of Peritonitis, following Puerperal Infection. This case also ended fatally.

Though the above table shows a bad result in comparison with England and Wales, the actual number of cases was small.

Orthopædic Clinic.

| | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Pre-school children brought to the Clinic | 36 | 21 | 26 |
| Attendances made | 45 | 30 | 32 |

It is an unfortunate necessity that words with ordinary accepted meanings in certain circumstances obtain special or technical meanings. An *infant* generally means any quite young child, but in an Infant Clinic the word may be used to denote a child under two years old, and a toddler is a child from one to five years of age. But to an educationalist an infant is a child attending an Infant Department of a school, and may be of any age from four to eight years old. Hence confusion may arise, and it is necessary to adopt the barbarous term *Pre-school* children which includes all children from birth up to the age at which they go to school.

This Clinic is primarily held for school children, but pre-school children are also seen by the Specialist and receive the same consideration.

The 26 pre-school children treated at this Clinic were suffering from the following crippling conditions—

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Rickets, Flat Feet, or Bowed Legs | ... | ... | 15 |
| Deformity of Toes... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Infantile Paralysis | ... | ... | 1 |
| Torticollis | ... | ... | 1 |
| Congenital Scoliosis | ... | ... | 2 |
| Deformed Ear | ... | ... | 1 |
| Club Feet | ... | ... | 3 |
| Hemihypertrophy | ... | ... | 1 |

Two children were sent to an Orthopædic Hospital for Treatment. One was operated upon for Rickets, Bowed Tibiae and Flat Feet, and discharged in a satisfactory condition for after-care. The other case was re-admitted to a Hospital for Elongation of Tendo Achillis, and was discharged in plaster.

Orthopædic Massage Clinic.

The same arrangements were continued. One of the County Council's Masseuse attends one morning each week and gives most useful treatment and after-care to both school children and pre-school children from the Borough and from neighbouring County Districts.

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Number of times the Massage Clinic was open | ... | 46 |
| Attendances of Pre-school Children | ... | 84 |
| „ „ School Children... | ... | 159 |
| „ „ Children from County Districts | ... | 118 |

Dental Clinic.

This Clinic also is chiefly occupied with school children, but one afternoon every week is given up to mothers and children recommended from the Ante-natal and Infant Welfare Clinics.

| | 1934 | 1935 |
|--|------|------|
| Number of sessions held | 43 | 43 |
| Mothers attending | 52 | 40 |
| Pre-school Children attending | 17 | 21 |
| Attendances (mothers 150, children 45) | 149 | 195 |

The sooner children with decayed teeth see a Dentist the better. It is not sufficiently realised that decayed milk teeth will lead to decay of the permanent set. Too many parents consider the first teeth of no importance and take no trouble to teach a child to keep them clean. This is of great importance, and the Dentist's advice should be sought upon any signs of decay appearing.

Many women who attend the Ante-natal Clinic are found to have terribly septic mouths. Wholesale extraction is the only remedy, and the subsequent fitting of dentures. Wherever possible the women are expected to pay in full, or in part for their dentures. Occasionally the Public Assistance Committee has helped in the cost of dentures for a woman in receipt of Poor Law Relief.

Result of Treatment.

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Teeth filled (temporary 36, permanent 61) | ... | 97 |
| „ extracted (temporary 31, permanent 172) | ... | 203 |
| Other operations (Scaling, Dressing, Fitting Dentures, etc.) | | 195 |
| General Anæsthetics given | ... | 22 |

Patients recommended for extractions under Gas attend the Clinic on Saturday mornings.

MATERNITY HOME.

Work of the Home.

| | 1934 | 193 |
|---|------|-----|
| Admitted (143 Borough and 52 County) ... | 197 | 195 |
| Delivered in the Home ... | 195 | 194 |
| Admitted for Ante-natal Care ... | 2 | 9 |
| Attended by the Nursing Staff ... | 100 | 114 |
| " " Doctors ... | 95 | 80 |
| Forms sent for Medical Aid under the Mid-wives Acts ... | 40 | 55 |

The number of patients admitted to this Home during the past two years was very much the same. This figure is likely to be larger as the excellent work done by the Staff becomes better known, and also because, in order to make the Home available to all but the poorest, the fees have been reduced for certain cases from 5/- to 3/- a day. As this concession becomes better known poor mothers will quickly appreciate the comfort that such a Home can offer them and the number applying for admission will increase.

Fees paid by Borough Patients in the Maternity Home.

| | Amount paid per day. | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|--|
| | 3/- | 4/- | 5/- | 6/- | 6/6 | 7/6 | 8/6 | 9/- | 10/- | 12/- | 15/- | |
| Number of Patients 143 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 14 | 30 | 36 | 16 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 17 | |

It has already been mentioned that two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified from this Home and the patients removed to the Isolation Hospital. This statement should cause satisfaction rather than anxiety. Every occurrence of a rise of temperature in a woman after child-birth should be looked upon with suspicion and the patient in a Home should be isolated. If the temperature remains up the case should be notified and the patient removed from the Home. By these means the patient receives early, careful and proper attention, and the risk of Puerperal Fever in the Home is reduced to a minimum. An attitude of inactivity and waiting to see what will happen should be strongly condemned. In every confinement whether in a private house, a maternity home or a hospital temperatures may occur. The method of dealing with such an occurrence is a matter of the greatest importance, not the occurrence itself.

Abnormalities.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Abnormal Presentation (including Breech) 6, Transverse | | | | | |
| 1, Persistent Occipito-posterior 12, Face 2, Impacted | | | | | |
| Shoulder 1, and other Mal-presentations 3 | | | | | |
| Twins | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Stillbirths | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Post-mature Birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Forceps Delivery | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 |
| Eclampsia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Induction of Labour | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Albuminuria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Cæsarian Section performed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Ante-partum Hæmorrhage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Post-partum Hæmorrhage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Emergency Cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Placenta Prævia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Hydrocephalus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Anencephalus | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

It will be remembered that 195 patients were admitted to the Home and of these 8 were emergency cases. That means that they had not previously booked accommodation but were sent to the Home by a Doctor for some abnormality or owing to the occurrence of a serious complication. This increases the number of abnormal conditions encountered, and also many of the booked cases are advised by their doctors to seek admission to the Home owing to the presence or fear of some unusual condition. For these reasons fatalities are certain to occur, in fact certain cases are sent to the Home in an almost hopeless condition, some serious emergency having arisen during what had at first appeared to be a normal delivery. It speaks very highly for the nursing and treatment given that only two maternal deaths occurred. These were due to (1) Eclamptic Fits and (1) Pulmonary Embolus. Four babies died and their deaths were due to Atelectasis (2), Congenital Malformation (1) and Prematurity (1).

When patients are admitted for Ante-natal care or for some reason have to remain beyond the usual 14 days in the Home, if they can ill-afford the extra cost a reduction is made in the fees charged. On the other hand if well-to-do patients require extra attention and this can be arranged an additional fee is charged for this service.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water, Drainage, Sewerage and Scavenging.

Water. The consumption per head per day was 29·87 gallons including water used for road making, fire extinguishment, public baths, etc.

New recording Venturi meters have been installed on the out-flow pipes of the Water Tower. These meters record from minute to minute the changes in the flow of water from the tower and so record the alterations in the demand for water.

The 4-inch mains were extended during the year for a total length of one mile and 31 yards, the chief extensions being to the Old Heath Housing Site, in King George Road, Barkstead Road, Dugard Avenue, Berechurch Road, and Rosebery Avenue.

The 6-inch mains were extended in St. Andrews Avenue and in Cowdray Avenue for 362 yards.

Sewerage. The new main Southern Sewer was begun in December, 1934, and work upon it continued throughout 1935. It should be completed towards the end of 1936.

Closet Accommodation and Wells.

| Type of Closet. | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Privy ... | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Pail Closets ... | 128 | 126 | 123 |
| Cess-pools ... | 152 | 171 | 132 |
| Wells ... | 160 | 171 | 171 |

The number of privies has remained the same for a number of years as these are in the more rural and outlying parts of the Borough, but the pail closets and cesspools should now steadily decline in number, particularly when the new main southern sewer is completed.

The "Bradford System" of refuse disposal continues to work satisfactorily, especially where this system has been adopted when a new dump has been started. The large old dump to the North of the town has served a most useful purpose for many years, and thousands of tons of refuse have been easily and conveniently got rid of upon it. It will not last much longer.

Public Lavatories and Baths.

These are constantly inspected and are well kept. It is realized that several of them are now old-fashioned and not up to modern requirements. They will be replaced as opportunity offers.

A scheme to erect a new lavatory upon the Bye-Pass Road caused much careful consideration during the year. It is to be erected during 1936. Also a new lavatory for both men and women will be erected in Osborne Street which has recently been considerably widened.

The Baths in Culver Street have proved to be most popular. During the year 12,187 men and 2,286 women made use of them.

During the summer months the Bathing Pool beside the river is thronged from morning to night. The water is chlorinated, and analysis has shown that the water in the pool is not only safe but constantly in a high condition of purity. The river water is diverted so that the water in the pool is continually changing and the in-coming water is purified as it enters.

Sanitary Inspection.

General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Complaints received | ... | ... | ... | 321 |
| Defects found | ... | ... | ... | 21,828 |
| Defects remedied | ... | ... | ... | 11,672 |
| Factories and Workshops inspected | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Informal Notices served | ... | ... | ... | 491 |
| Statutory Notices served | ... | ... | ... | 67 |

Housing.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Floors repaired—bedroom 95, others 385 | ... | ... | ... | 480 |
| Walls, internal, repaired—skirting boards 33, plaster 899, match-boarding 147, brickwork 251 | ... | ... | ... | 1,330 |
| „ external, repaired—plaster 80, brickwork 325, weather-boards 9, re-pointed 422, air-bricks put in 19 | ... | ... | ... | 855 |
| Ceilings—plaster repaired | ... | ... | ... | 296 |
| Doors—provided 15, new sills 13, weather-boards 11, repaired 598, joints between frames and brickwork renewed 87 | ... | ... | ... | 724 |
| Windows—made to open 97, enlarged 22, cords, etc., provided 296, other repairs 963, joints between frames and brickwork renewed 93 | ... | ... | ... | 1,471 |

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Ovens—repaired 100, new provided 35 | ... | 135 |
| Firegrates—repaired, including hearths, surrounds, firebacks and mantels | ... .. | 189 |
| Stairs—handrails provided 129, treads repaired 414, balusters repaired or provided 38 | ... .. | 581 |
| Rooms—cleansed and re-decorated | ... .. | 30 |
| Roofs—repaired | ... .. | 339 |
| Rain-water pipes and gutters—gutters repaired 85, gutter obstructions removed 9, downpipes repaired 74, downpipes lengthened 24, downpipes disconnected 40, gutters provided 51, downpipes provided 33 | ... .. | 316 |
| Chimneys—new 3, repaired 156, pots renewed 30 | ... .. | 189 |
| Food cupboards—ventilated 47, repaired 139 | ... .. | 186 |
| Wash-houses—rebuilt 3, repaired 235, coppers provided 18, coppers repaired 139, furnaces repaired 26 | ... .. | 421 |
| Houses—concrete plinth to walls 29, damp walls remedied 1,105 | ... .. | 1,134 |
| Yards paved 42, paving repaired 114 | ... .. | 156 |
| Sinks—provided 126; waste pipes—provided 81, repaired 54 | ... .. | 261 |
| Sculleries re-built | ... .. | 3 |

Water Supply.

| | | |
|---|--------|----|
| New water taps—provided 91, repaired 5 | ... | 96 |
| New services put in | ... .. | 93 |
| Service pipes repaired or renewed | ... .. | 1 |
| Wells and Pumps, cleansed or repaired | ... .. | 6 |
| Defects reported to Water Supply Department | ... .. | 22 |
| Old Wells filled up | ... .. | — |
| Samples taken for Analysis | ... .. | 9 |

Drainage.

| | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| Drains provided 44, repaired 24, reconstructed 3, traps or gullies provided or basins, etc., repaired 208, grids to gullies 11, drains ventilated 5, ventilating shafts repaired 7, obstructions removed 71, insanitary traps abolished 12, gullies cleansed —, old drains abolished 5, fresh air inlets provided 4, repaired 1, drains connected to sewer 1 | ... .. | 396 |
| Inspection chambers—provided 14, repaired 9 | ... .. | 23 |

Water-closets—provided 12, pans and traps renewed 83, flushing apparatus provided 21, flushing apparatus repaired 58, obstructions removed 13, pans cleansed 2, water supply pipes renewed or repaired 17, other repairs 1,612 ... 1,818

Pail Closets, repairs to ... 4

„ abolished ... 3

Other Sanitary Work.

Books disinfected ... 144

Houses disinfected ... 230

Articles of clothing disinfected ... 3,934

Offensive accumulations removed ... 12

Overcrowding nuisances abated or recommendations for Council House ... 13

Pig-keeping nuisances abated ... 2

Other nuisances abated ... 3

Matters reported to Borough Engineer's Department 22

Ashbins provided ... 87

Ash-pit abolished ... —

Common Lodging House inspections ... 12

Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices—
P.H. Act, 701 ; H. Act, 1,685 ... 2,386

Interviews with Property Owners, Tradesmen, etc. ... 180

Smoke nuisances abated ... 3

Urinals reconstructed ... —

Milk and Dairies Order.

Requirements complied with... 27

Samples for Bacteriological Analysis ... 10

Offensive Trades Byelaws.

Requirements complied with... 4

Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, etc.

Visits made ... 8

Bye-laws in respect to Houses let in Lodgings.

Visits made ... 16

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Inspections ... 93

Advice as to destruction given ... 15

Letters to Owners or Occupiers of premises ... 19

Premises freed ... 11

Complaints received ... 21

The above statements give briefly the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department. In 1934 this work had got rather behind-hand owing to the severe pressure of new work. A few figures picked out at random will show what a great increase has occurred and how arrears are rapidly being overtaken, thanks to the increase in the inspectorial staff. The number of defects found in 1934 was 5,582; in 1935 the figure was 21,828. In 1934 repairs to windows were 140; in 1935 the figure was 1,471. The yards of 40 houses were repaired or repaved in 1934, while in 1935 the number was 156, and so on all through the statement it will be seen that a great increase of work has been undertaken. Even so it may be remarked that only about half the "defects found" appear to have been remedied. This, as in 1934, is due to the fact that defects found in houses to be condemned are not remedied and so appear to be defects that remain unremedied.

Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations. Offensive Trades.

| | Number. | Inspections. |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Fish Frier | 26 | 8 |
| Gut Scraper | 1 | 24 |
| Tallow Melter | 1 | 2 |
| Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer | 7 | 4 |
| Bone Boiler | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 36 | 40 |
| Horse Slaughterer | 1 | 12 |

All these premises are inspected from time to time during the year. All were found to be conducted properly and in accordance with the Bye-laws.

Common Lodging Houses.

163 Magdalen Street.
63A East Hill.

A second Common Lodging House was registered during 1935. Both houses are properly kept in an orderly manner. Both were inspected upon several occasions during the year.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

Schools. New closets and increased washing and drinking facilities are in hand for several of the schools.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928. There are no premises dealing with Rag Flock in the Borough.

Shops Act, 1934. Owing to the pressure of other work it was only possible to make a beginning with the necessary work under this Act. The appointment of another Sanitary Inspector will enable the duties under the Act to be carried out more fully.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—*Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

| Premises (1) | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | Inspections (2) | Written Notices (3) | Prosecutions (4) |
| Factories (Including Factory Laundries) | 20 | 10 | ... |
| Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) | 10 | 3 | ... |
| Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises) | ... | ... | ... |
| Total | 30 | 13 | ... |

2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

| Particulars (1) | Number of Defects | | | Number of Prosecu- tions (5) |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred to H.M. Inspector (4) | |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*:</i> — | | | | |
| Want of cleanliness ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| Want of ventilation ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Overcrowding ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Want of drainage of floors ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other nuisances... .. | 6 | 5 | ... | ... |
| Sanitary accommodation— | | | | |
| Insufficient | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Unsuitable or defective | 5 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Not separate for sexes ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:</i> — | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101) | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921). ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total | 13 | 9 | ... | ... |

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

| Nature of Work. | Instances. | Notices served. | Prosecutions. |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Wearing Apparel—Making, &c. ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... |

Home Work.

| Nature of Work. | Outworkers' Lists. Section 107. | | | | | | Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists. |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|-----------|--|---------------|-----------|---|
| | Lists received from Employers twice a year. | | | Lists received from Employers once a year. | | | |
| | Lists. | Outworkers. | | Lists. | Outworkers. | | |
| | | Con-tractors. | Work-men. | | Con-tractors. | Work-men. | |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| Wearing Apparel Making, etc... | 26 | — | 388 | — | — | — | — |
| Furniture and Upholstery .. | 2 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Sack Making .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Paper Receptacle Making .. | 2 | — | 9 | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 31 | — | 401 | — | — | — | — |

During the year 22 lists of Outworkers, containing 182 names, were transferred from Colchester to other districts. Two lists were received in Colchester from other districts.

HOUSING.

Statistics for the Year 1935.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 446 |
| (i.) By the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| (ii.) By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | ... | ... | 380 |

The total number of houses erected by the Local Authority is now 1,084.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Inspection :—

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. | ... | ... | ... | 1,085 |
| and Number of Inspections made | ... | ... | ... | 3,471 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 552 |
| and Number of Inspections made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,237 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 80 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 926 |

II.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 637 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

III.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | | | | | |
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | | | | | 3 |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ; | | | | | |
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | | | | | 4 |

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 —

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | 103 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | 72 |

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 —

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | — |

Since 1932 over 200 Demolition Orders have been made and a number of owners have interviewed the Health Committee. In every instance they accepted the Committee's opinion. Not one has thought an appeal to the Courts was justifiable.

Towards the end of the year arrangements had to be made for a survey of every working-class house in the Borough, and certain dates were appointed in 1936 for the completion of the work.

It was obvious at once that a special staff would be required and seven men were temporarily appointed, two as clerks and five as enumerators. They commenced the work at once, each enumerator being given a district of the Borough in which to make the necessary enquiries.

At the end of the year the whole scheme was in full working order.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

| Premises | | | | Number | Inspections |
|------------------------|-----|-----|------|--------|-------------|
| Slaughter-houses:— | | | | | |
| Registered | ... | ... | 9 } | 18 | 805 |
| Licensed | ... | ... | 9 } | | |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | 32 } | 33 | 5 |
| Underground | ... | ... | 1 } | | |
| Dairies and Milk Shops | ... | ... | ... | 94 | 117 |
| Cowsheds | ... | ... | ... | 55 | 101 |
| Ice Cream | ... | ... | ... | 89 | 38 |

The premises of Ice Cream Makers are definitely specified in the Essex County Council Act, and Regulations have been made for their proper conduct and management.

Milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk, 1935.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Certified Milk | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Grade "A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Grade "A" Milk | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Pasteurised Milk... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |

No licences were refused or revoked during the year.

Meat.

Carcasses Examined by the Meat Inspectors.

| Cattle. | Swine. | Sheep. | Total. |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1,055 | 3,268 | 2,303 | 6,626 |

Whole Carcasses found Unfit and Destroyed.

8 Oxen 19 Pigs 1 Sheep

These Carcasses were condemned for such conditions as Generalized Tuberculosis; Dropsy; Immaturity.

Parts of Carcasses found Unfit and Destroyed.

| <i>Cattle—</i> | | | <i>Pigs—</i> | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| | | lbs. | | | lbs. |
| Livers | ... | 368 | Heads and Tongues | ... | 1,584 |
| Heads and Tongues | ... | 712 | Mesenteries | ... | 188 |
| Mesenteries | ... | 42 | Plucks | ... | 94 |
| Lungs | ... | 199 | Lungs | ... | 17 |
| Plucks | ... | — | Livers | ... | 52 |
| Kidneys | ... | 10 | Kidneys | ... | — |
| Beef | ... | 975 | Spleens | ... | 3 |
| Other parts | ... | 16 | Other parts | ... | 26 |
| | | 2,322 | | | 1,964 |

Miscellaneous—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|
| 23 tins Cooked Ham | ... | 342 lbs. |
| 1 box Empire Apples | ... | 40 lbs. |
| Sheep's Liver | ... | 30 lbs. |
| Sheep's Kidneys (Imported) | ... | 5 lbs. |
| Sheep's Pluck | ... | 7 lbs. |
| 158 Bottles Preserved Plums | ... | |
| 275 Tins Assorted Fruits | ... | |

Total Weight of Food Condemned and Destroyed;
5 tons, 14 cwts., 1 qtr., 19 lbs.

During the year 115 visits and inspections were made to places where food was stored or prepared.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.*Result of Analysis of Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act.*

| Samples. | Number of Samples. | Adulterated. | Nature of Adulteration. |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| New Milk ... | 41 | | |
| Pasteurised Milk ... | 3 | | |
| Rice ... | 2 | | |
| Whiskey ... | 1 | | |
| Gin ... | 1 | | |
| Condensed Milk ... | 1 | | |
| Lard ... | 5 | 1 | |
| White Pepper ... | 2 | | |
| Coffee ... | 1 | | |
| Butter ... | 7 | | |
| Black Currant Jam ... | 1 | | |
| Ice Cream ... | 7 | | |
| Raspberry Jam ... | 1 | | |
| Raisins ... | 2 | | |
| Cream ... | 4 | | |
| Skimmed Milk ... | 1 | | |
| Sugar ... | 1 | | |
| Marmalade ... | 2 | | |
| Cheese ... | 2 | | |
| Tea ... | 1 | | |
| Brandy ... | 1 | | |
| Sausages(1) Preserved (1) | 2 | | |
| Cocoa ... | 1 | | |
| Bread ... | 1 | | |
| Flour ... | 1 | | |
| Coffee and Chicory ... | 2 | | |
| Bacon .. | 3 | | |
| Meat Pies ... | 1 | | |
| Olive Oil ... | 2 | | |
| Corned Beef... | 2 | | |
| Tinned Herring ... | 1 | | |
| Aspirin Tablets ... | 2 | | |
| Stout ... | 1 | | |
| Honey ... | 1 | | |
| Mustard ... | 1 | | |
| Sago ... | 1 | | |
| Arrowroot ... | 1 | | |
| Baked Beans ... | 1 | | |
| Tinned Beans, Pork and Tomatoes ... | 1 | | |
| Seidlitz Powder ... | 1 | | |
| Oatmeal ... | 1 | | |
| Tinned Peas (1) Preserved (1) ... | 2 | | |
| Mixed Sweets ... | 1 | | |
| Chicken and Ham Paste... | 1 | | |
| Small Sild ... | 1 | | |
| Old Ale ... | 1 | | |
| Cod Liver Oil ... | 1 | | |
| | 121 | 1 | |

It should be noted that no samples of Milk were found to be adulterated during 1935, and the only sample returned as not genuine was a sample of Lard, which had apparently been wrongly labelled. It proved on analysis to be a sample of Butter.

Deaths due to an Infectious Disease, 1935.
(Civilian and Military.)

(Civilian and Military.

| Disease | Total Deaths | Age at Death | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | Under 1 Year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-34 | 35-44 | 45-64 | 65 and over |
| Diphtheria | 5 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 57 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 25 | 14 |
| Erysipelas | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 2 |

Isolation Hospital.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1935.

| Authority sending in cases | Scarlet Fever | Deaths | Diphtheria | Deaths | Typhoid Fever | Deaths | Other Diseases | Deaths | Total | Deaths |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Colchester Borough ... | 92 | ... | 28 | 4 | 2 | ... | 27 | 1 | 149 | 5 |
| Essex County Hospital ... | 9 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 6 | ... | 16 | 1 |
| Mental Institutions ... | 22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 24 | ... |
| War Department ... | 9 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 17 | ... |
| Frinton and Walton U.D. ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... |
| Sudbury Borough ... | 10 | ... | 8 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 20 | 2 |
| Tendring R.D. ... | 39 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 47 | ... |
| Lexden and Winstree R.D. ... | 14 | ... | 8 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 25 | ... |
| Melford R.D. ... | 15 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 17 | ... |
| Essex County Council ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 | 12 | 73 | 12 |
| West Mersea U.D. ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Braintree Joint Hospital Board ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Wivenhoe U.D. ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 10 | ... |
| West Ham I.D.H. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Brightlingsea U.D. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Total Cases | 225 | ... | 57 | ... | 4 | ... | 121 | ... | 407 | ... |
| Deaths | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 13 | ... | 20 |

In the above table the 121 "Other Diseases" may be classified as follows :—

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|---|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... | 68 | Nephritis ... | ... | 1 |
| Puerperal Fever ... | 9 | Cellulitis of Leg ... | ... | 1 |
| Tonsillitis ... | 5 | Debility ... | ... | 1 |
| Diphtheria Carriers ... | 2 | Multiple Abscesses ... | ... | 1 |
| Mastoid Disease... .. | 1 | Septic Abortion ... | ... | 2 |
| Gastritis .. | 1 | Cerebro-spinal Fever ... | ... | 1 |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis | 1 | Erysipelas ... | ... | 4 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|---|-------------------------|-----|---|
| Measles | ... | ... | 5 | German Measles | ... | 5 |
| Laryngitis | ... | ... | 2 | Suspected Dysentery | ... | 5 |
| Toxic Rash | ... | ... | 1 | Suspected Scarlet Fever | ... | 1 |
| Pleurisy | ... | ... | 1 | Pneumonia | ... | 3 |

The 13 deaths among these were due to Tuberculosis (10), Pneumonia (1), and Puerperal Fever (2).

The above table shows the variety of cases that may be admitted to a Fever Hospital. It will be seen that three cases of Pneumonia were admitted. In poor homes it is often very desirable that a patient with Pneumonia should be removed to a hospital, and failing admission to a General Hospital, an Isolation Hospital would seem to be the best place. There appears to be an increasing tendency upon the part of general practitioners to ask for cases of Pneumonia to be admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Pneumonia is not usually considered an infectious disease, but in a small crowded house, particularly if the patient cannot have a room to himself, he should for the sake of other persons in the house as well as for his own benefit be removed to a hospital. In the Table of Deaths due to an infectious disease it will be noted that 57 cases were ascribed to Pneumonia.

Ten of the deaths that occurred were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The Pavilion for advanced or very acute cases of this disease continues to give relief and prolong the lives of these distressing cases. Good care and nursing enables many of them to pass their last days in comparative comfort. It is also desirable that such patients should be segregated from the general population. Occasionally such a patient will rally in a surprising manner and be able to return in a much better state of health to his friends and relations. Other patients in this Pavilion return every few years for a prolonged rest, to recuperate. Such cases usually have extensive but healed lesions of the lungs, and the strain of work has broken down their strength. It is often astonishing to see how greatly good food and rest enables them to recover their strength.

The total number of patients admitted to the Isolation Hospital was 198 less than the previous year. The fall was almost altogether due to the fewer cases of Scarlet Fever that occurred.

The new Small Pox Hospital was completed by the end of the year, and by the same time the new wing of the Administration Block and Nurses Home was finished. The whole Institution has

been greatly improved by these additions. The accommodation now consists of—

130 beds for patients in the Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

24 beds for patients in the Small Pox Hospital.

53 beds for Nurses and domestic Staff in the Nurses Home.

A part of the Institution that now should be replaced by a modern pavilion or pavilions is that devoted to Scarlet Fever. The wards used for this disease were erected during the war emergency and they should now make way for more up-to-date and convenient buildings. The Health Committee of the Council have the matter under consideration.

Scarlet Fever.

BOROUGH CASES—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---------|
| Notified, 133 ; not notified, nil... | ... | ... | 133 |
| Nursed at home or in other institutions | ... | ... | 1 |
| Removed to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 132 |
| Return Cases | ... | ... | 7=5·26% |
| Deaths at home or in other institutions | ... | ... | nil |
| „ in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | nil |

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Admitted to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 93 |
| Deaths in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | nil |
| TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL | ... | ... | 225 |
| TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL | ... | ... | nil |

No deaths from Scarlet Fever occurred either in the Borough or in the Isolation Hospital, and the number of cases was low. This was particularly so in the latter half of the year when for some unaccountable reason all infectious diseases became unusually scarce.

Although the number of Return Cases is only one higher than in the previous year the percentage has risen from 2·5% to 5·2%. When dealing with such small figures a percentage is very easily affected.

A Return Case is a case notified within four weeks from a house to which a patient has just returned from the Isolation Hospital after an attack of Scarlet Fever. This is the usually accepted definition and it is a common belief that such cases are due to the primary case not having been kept in the Isolation Hospital long enough. This at first sight would appear to be correct, for if the first case had been kept longer very probably the second would not

have occurred. But it is a frequent experience to find that cases that have been kept in the hospital for an extra week or more, and sometimes for a number of weeks, give rise to return cases quite as frequently as cases discharged at the end of a few weeks. In one instance a child suffered from extensive Abscesses in the neck as a result of an attack of Scarlet Fever. He was very ill, but under treatment he gradually recovered. After 43 weeks he left the hospital perfectly well, the neck completely healed and his whole condition most satisfactory. A week later his mother was in the hospital as a return case of Scarlet Fever.

Probably such cases arise from two causes. The first is the result of infection still remaining deep in the nasal passages and a slight chill causing running from the nose frees this infection and someone in the house is infected. Numerous precautions are taken to reduce this risk, but even so return cases occur in connection with every Isolation Hospital. The second cause is a fresh infection. The fact that a patient has returned to the house from the Isolation Hospital has nothing to do with the second case. The second case has picked up the infection elsewhere. But this can rarely be proved and so such cases go to swell the number of return cases. Not so very long ago a child was going to be discharged from the scarlet fever ward as cured and free from infection but a slightly sore nose was noticed and his discharge was delayed a week. Two days after this was decided his sister was sent to the hospital with an attack of Scarlet Fever. Had the boy been sent home, she would certainly have been considered a return case infected by her brother. Actually she had caught the disease from quite another source. Such occurrences are not uncommon and it will be seen how easily such cases are mistaken for return cases.

During the year 9 cases were admitted from the Essex County Hospital. They were in the General Hospital for the following conditions—Hernia (3), and one each for Abscess of face, Thrombosis, Nephritis, Peritonitis, Appendectomy, and Empyema.

Two of the Isolation Hospital ward maids contracted Scarlet Fever, and one patient recovering from Diphtheria.

Several patients developed other infections while in the hospital. One developed German Measles, another Mumps, one child developed Diphtheria and a young man, Erysipelas. None of these gave rise to further cases. This speaks very well for the care taken in the wards to prevent cross infections.

The Borough cases of Scarlet Fever were distributed in the Wards, Garrison and Institutions as follows :

| North Ward. | South Ward. | East Ward. | West Ward. | Garrison. | Institutions. | Total |
|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| 13 | 18 | 31 | 28 | 9 | 34 | = 133 |

Diphtheria.

BOROUGH CASES—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Notified, 35 ; not notified, nil | ... | ... | 35 |
| Nursed at home or in other institutions | ... | ... | 1 |
| Removed to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 34 |
| Deaths at home or in other institutions | ... | ... | nil |
| „ in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 5 |

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----------|
| Admitted to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 23 |
| Deaths in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 2 |
| TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL | ... | ... | 57 |
| TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL | ... | ... | 7 = 12·3% |

Although the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital was small, many of them were extremely ill and the condition of some of them was hopeless.

The year began badly. The type of disease in January and February was very severe, four cases died out of the twelve cases admitted early in the year, two the day after Tracheotomy had been performed. All of the eight that recovered were very seriously ill. Tracheotomy was performed upon one of them.

Later in the year an elderly woman who had refused to see a doctor until too late, was admitted in a most grave condition. She died four days later.

Two cases died out of 23 admitted from the neighbouring districts. They were admitted together and lived only a few hours.

The Borough cases occurred in the Wards and Institutions as follows :—

| North Ward | South Ward | East Ward | West Ward | Garrison | Institutions | Total |
|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|-------|
| 13 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | = 35 |

Enteric Fever.**BOROUGH CASES—**

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Notified, 2 ; not notified, nil | ... | ... | 2 |
| Nursed at home or in other institutions | ... | ... | nil |
| Removed to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 2 |
| Deaths at home or in other institutions | ... | ... | nil |
| „ in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | nil |

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Admitted to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 2 |
| Deaths in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | nil |

TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL ... 4

TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL ... nil

Neither of the cases of Typhoid Fever was severe. One of them was directly connected with other cases in a neighbouring district. This was a Paratyphoid B infection, the other case was true Typhoid.

Pneumonia.**TOTAL BOROUGH CASES—**

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Cases notified, 81 ; not notified, 27 | ... | ... | 108 |
| NUMBER OF CASES OCCURRING IN GARRISON OR INSTITUTIONS | | | 63 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS | ... | ... | 57 |

These 108 cases were distributed in the Wards and Institutions in the Borough as follows :

| North Ward. | South Ward. | East Ward. | West Ward. | Institutions. | Garrison. |
|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| 16 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 63 | — |

The total number of cases of Pneumonia and the number notified are very much the same as in 1934. The proportion notified is a good deal higher than it was a few years ago. Occasionally the Health Department is able to be of assistance by supplying the services of one of the District Nurses to help in looking after a child at home, or under certain circumstances by removing the patient to the Isolation Hospital. The latter procedure is particularly valuable in an Influenza outbreak, as such patients are not only very ill themselves, but will readily spread the infection. Similarly in a Measles or Whooping Cough epidemic, such cases that develop Pneumonia may upon a doctor's request be taken to the Isolation Hospital.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.**BOROUGH CASES—**

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Cases notified, 1 ; not notified, nil | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cases occurring in the Garrison | ... | ... | 1 |
| Removed to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 1 |
| Nursed at home or in other Institutions | ... | ... | nil |
| Number of Deaths ... | ... | ... | nil |

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Admitted to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | nil |
| Deaths in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | nil |
| TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL | ... | ... | 1 |
| TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL | ... | ... | nil |

A soldier was notified with Cerebro-spinal Meningitis and removed to the hospital. He had a sharp attack and was very ill for several weeks. In the treatment of this disease the spinal canal is punctured with a hollow needle and excess fluid withdrawn. This man was tapped 22 times, and 1,346 cubic centimetres or nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints of fluid were withdrawn, an unusually large number of tappings and a very large amount of fluid to be withdrawn from the spinal canal in such a case. He eventually made a good recovery, but the deafness in one ear that had been present before his illness was accentuated.

Encephalitis Lethargica and Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis or Encephalitis Lethargica were notified.

A child with Infantile Paralysis was admitted from a neighbouring district.

Erysipelas, Malaria, Dysentery.*Erysipelas—***BOROUGH CASES—**

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Cases notified, 36 ; not notified, 2 | ... | ... | 38 |
| Removed to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 2 |
| Number of Deaths ... | ... | ... | 4 |

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Admitted to the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | 2 |
| Deaths in the Isolation Hospital | ... | ... | nil |
| TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL | ... | ... | 4 |

TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL nil

Twenty-six of the 38 cases occurred in Institutions.

Erysipelas. The number of cases notified was unusually high. One patient died from this disease in Severalls Mental Hospital, and one at the Essex County Hospital, one at the Royal Eastern Counties' Institution, and one at the Public Assistance Institution.

Dysentery. Nine cases occurred among the patients at the Royal Eastern Counties' Institution. A soldier who had contracted the disease in India was also notified.

Malaria. No cases of Malaria were notified.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Only a few cases of both these diseases were brought to the notice of the department during the year. It is gratifying to record that no deaths occurred from either of these diseases.

Four cases of Measles were admitted to the hospital, a Nurse and a maid from Severalls Mental Hospital, a child from the Borough and an officer from the Garrison.

Miscellaneous Cases admitted to the Hospital.

Four patients thought to have Scarlet Fever were found to be suffering from German Measles (2), Toxic Rash (1), no apparent illness (1). Two suspected cases of Diphtheria proved to be simple Laryngitis, and a third case proved to be Tonsillitis.

A case sent in as Puerperal Fever was found to be a threatened Septic Abortion, and was transferred to the General Hospital. A similar case was kept in the hospital and made a good recovery.

Five suspected cases of Dysentery were admitted from the General Hospital but their condition rapidly improved and the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Several of the staff were warded at different times. One Nurse and two ward maids suffered from Tonsillitis. A Nurse was ill with Pleurisy, and another with Gastritis. The latter was transferred to the Essex County Hospital where her appendix was removed.

Two maids from a large house were admitted suffering from German Measles, and a Nurse in the hospital contracted this disease.

Two cases were sent in from neighbouring districts as Erysipelas. One was found to be a Cellulitis of the leg, the other was suffering from Multiple Abscesses.

Tuberculosis.

| Age Periods | | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|
| | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 2-4 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 5-9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10-14 | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15-19 | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| 20-24 | ... | 3 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... |
| 25-34 | ... | 5 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | ... |
| 35-44 | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... |
| 45-54 | ... | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 55-64 | ... | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | .. | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals | ... | 25 | 21 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 14 | 2 | 2 |

There were 26 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 4 from other forms of the disease, or 30 deaths from Tuberculosis of all forms.

Six persons died from Tuberculosis who had not been previously notified.

The percentages of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the past five years, without having been previously notified, were—

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
| 21 | 5 | 11 | 17 | 20 |

A Tuberculosis Register has been kept for a number of years and it is a noteworthy fact that the number of cases not only falls but falls steadily and regularly. There can be little doubt that Sanatoria help considerably in bringing about this reduction, but some consider that general public health measures, such as good food and housing, do even more in checking the spread of this terrible disease. There is no need to try and decide exactly how great a part each plays so long as it is realized that Sanatoria alone would never stamp out Tuberculosis.

The total cases each year for the past five years are shown below.

Tuberculosis Register.

| | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pulmonary Cases ... | 218 | 211 | 187 | 178 | 166 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis | 87 | 80 | 73 | 70 | 60 |

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was found necessary under either of the above powers.

Treatment of Blind Persons.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.

Any persons that should apparently be dealt with under this section are referred to the County Council Ophthalmic Consultant, who attends a Clinic about once a month in Colchester.

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health, etc.,
for the Borough of Colchester.*

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET.



